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always a number of students who would like to hear a few lectures on some of the most interesting topics relating to botany, students intending to become clergymen, lawyers, business men, whose time is so occupied with historical or philosophical courses that they could not take a regular botanical course. The few minutes which they could spend in a laboratory would be time thrown away. They want a few plain lectures on some limited topic, and the topic should be changed from year to year. On one year there might be, for instance, six lectures on fertilization of higher plants. The next year a course on the lower limit of the vegetable kingdom. Or there might be two or three courses of six lectures during the same year.

RECENT LITERATURE.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS ON TREE-PLANTING.¹—The increased interest awakened of late in arboriculture may be attributed in part to a realizing sense that we have been forest-spendthrifts, and that it is about time for us to begin economizing, and if possible repair our wasted patrimony.. There is a vague fear that certain dangers are impending over us as a penalty for recklessly clearing the timber lands, and there seems to be a very general wish that our neighbors should do something at once. Now, what to do and how to do it are not so clear.

In a course of lectures last winter at the Lowell Institute, Dr. Hough gave a frank statement of the difficulties. In the Eastern States the traditions of two hundred years are against tree-planting; there is no concert of action in any community; there are many contingencies which may render the scheme in any one case a very hazardous one, and there is, at all events, a long time to wait for any pecuniary profit.

Besides these difficulties we may state another, namely, that in few towns are the assessors of taxes in a right frame of mind. And so each man would gladly see his neighbor do something at once. This little pamphlet by Mr. Sargent gives many sensible hints as to what to do, and we call attention to the paper because it is a practical one, advocating practicable methods. Meanwhile, as our communities are acting on Professor Northrop's suggestion to plant centennial trees in the towns this year, can they not try a few centennial forests?

DIE PFLANZENWELT NORWEGENS.²—This work is in two parts. The first, published in 1873, is a general account of the physical features of Norway and Sweden, with particular reference to the distribution of

¹ *A Few Suggestions on Tree-Planting.* By C. S. SARGENT, A. B., Director of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. From Report of Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, 1875.

² *Die Pflanzenwelt Norwegens.* Von DR. F. C. SCHÜBELER. (The Vegetation of Norway, by Professor Schübeler, of the University in Christiania.)